

Washington, DC – This morning, Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius announced that CommuniCare Health Centers of San Antonio would receive \$2,909,072 in a competitive grant program for health information technology. The [\\$83.9 million in HIT grants](#) awarded today come from monies administered by HHS as part of the health care funding in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#).

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20)

congratulated

[Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Care Centers, Inc. dba CommuniCare Health Centers](#), on securing these funds.

“Improving health information technology has always been [a top priority for me](#),” said **Congressman Gonzalez**

, “and I am proud that CommuniCare Health Centers is at the forefront of this new and exciting technology. These funds will help to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care for thousands of San Antonians.”

“We are delighted to receive this grant award that will significantly enhance the Health Information Technology capabilities of our Health Center Controlled Network, the Southwest Texas Network (STN),” said **Debbora A. Thompson, CEO of CommuniCare**. CommuniCare serves as the lead agency for STN, which is comprised of five community health centers that serve 16 Texas counties; Community Health Development, Inc., Community Health Services Agency, Atascosa Health Center and Frontera Health Network. “The grant will allow expansion of our integrated Electronic Medical and Dental Record systems, provide robust disaster recovery backup systems, Health Information Exchange capabilities and additional HIT staff. The grant will have a major impact on our ability to improve the health of the communities we serve by delivering high quality medical, dental and behavioral health care to uninsured and underserved residents.”

As a member of the Committee on Energy & Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health, Congressman Gonzalez worked hard to insure that the Recovery Act included investments in health information technology (HIT). Over the years, he has lead efforts to [bring more attention to the potential of HIT](#)

. He

[introduced bi-partisan legislation](#)

to spur the implementation of new technologies among health care providers both large and

small and has sought

[to fund improved programs at University Health System](#)

. Electronic health records and related technologies improve the efficiency of care by allowing doctors and other health care workers to communicate more quickly and accurately. The

Recovery Act includes more than

[\\$12 billion in new investments in HIT](#)

over 10 years. Texas has already received

[millions](#)

[in](#)

[this](#)

funding through various programs, creating new jobs and opportunities across the state.

CommuniCare Health Centers

[secured a \\$1.3 million grant](#)

in March 2009, to support their work.

###